

**Amendments to the Drawings:**

The attached replacement drawing sheets make changes to Figs. 1a-5 and 7 and replaces the original sheets with Figs. 1a-5 and 7.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-10 and 17-21 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the specification, drawings and claims 1 and 9 are amended, claims 11-16 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein, and claims 17-21 are added. No new matter is added.

**I. Formal Matters**

In the Office Action, the drawings are objected to under 37 CFR §1.83(a). In particular, the drawings are objected to for not illustrating the angle of claims 4, 6, 14, and 16 or the parallel upper and lower lines of claims 5 and 15, and for not showing the sectional views with cross hatching to reflect the synthetic resin. These objections are respectfully traversed.

The attached replacement drawings revise FIGS. 1a and 4 to illustrate the angle  $\theta$  and parallel sides. Support for angle  $\theta$  is found, for example, in the original claims and paragraphs [0011], [0012], and [0029]. Support for the bottom side of the triangle and trapezoid is found, for example, in the original claims and paragraphs [0012] and [0032] and FIGS. 1a, 2, 4, and 5. In particular, based on the cross-sectional profile of FIGS. 2 and 5, it is evident that the convex raised ridge lines 6a, 6b would have a line of demarcation where they meet the flat wall face 5b of the lower panel 5. No new matter is added.

Additionally, FIGS. 2, 3, 5 and 7 are revised to show the proper cross-hatching for a synthetic resin.

Approval of the drawings and withdrawal of the objection are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5). This objection is respectfully traversed, but rendered moot by addition of angle  $\theta$  to FIG. 1a as discussed above.

Approval of the drawings and withdrawal of the objection are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the drawings are objected to because reference characters 6a, 6b are not described in the specification. This objection is respectfully traversed.

Elements 6a, 6b are referenced in the specification in paragraph [0026] as ridge lines. Paragraph [0027] as amended further references the ridge lines 6a, 6b. Thus, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 8 and 10 are objected to for allegedly not further limiting the independent claims. Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse this objection.

Dependent claims 8 and 10 specify that the bottle type container has a circumferential draw ratio of 2.8 or less. The base independent claims do not specify a draw ratio. Therefore, these claims do, in fact, further limit the claim as they both specify a specific range of draw ratios (2.8 or less). The circumferential draw ratio is the dimensional ratio of a dimension from a central axis (X) of a bottle to a thickness center of a wall face of a body part of a bottle and a dimension from a central axis of a preform to a thickness center of a wall face of a body part of the preform (Applicants' specification paragraph [0004]). This ratio thus defines the amount of horizontal stretching and deformation that takes place during the blow molding from the preform shown in FIG. 3 to the bottles shown in either FIG. 1a or FIG. 4. This is a resultant structural feature of the bottle that must be given patentable weight.

For example, as explained in Applicants' specification (paragraphs [0004] to [0009] and [0027]), when used with small draw ratios (2.8 or less), convex portions of a bottle may form resin accumulations, whitening, and the like. This affects the appearance and heat resistance of the bottles and is thus undesirable. However, the claimed structures recited in the independent claims are directed to structures that can restrict the occurrence of such resin accumulations, whitening and the like (paragraph [0009]) by reducing obstructions against vectors directed from the top towards the bottom in a stretching direction during blow

molding, particularly for bottles having a low draw ratio as explained in Applicants' paragraph [0027].

Because claims 8 and 10 define additional structural features not found in the underlying independent claims 1 and 9, these claims are proper. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claim 11 is objected to for allegedly being a substantial duplicate of claim 7. By this Amendment, claim 11 and claims 12-16 dependent therefrom are canceled. Accordingly, this objection is moot. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

## **II. The Pending Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter**

In the Office Action, claims 1 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Japanese Patent Publication No. JP7-329158 to Kobayashi. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, a pressure reduction absorbing panel, and a convex portion along a wall face of the panel. The convex portion has a width larger at a lower side than at an upper side. This is supported, for example, by Applicants' FIGS. 1a and 4 where convex portions formed by ridge lines 6a, 6b are formed in a wall face 5b of panel 5, which is surrounded by a border formed by side walls 5a.

The Office Action relies on element 54 of Kobayashi as allegedly corresponding to the recited convex portion. However, Kobayashi's drawings do not illustrate a convex portion at all. In fact, as there is no cross-sectional view shown, one of ordinary skill cannot readily assess the details of this alleged structure from the drawings. Moreover, the only discussion of element 54 is in paragraph [0040]. From the computer-generated English language translation obtained from the Japanese Patent Office, paragraph [0040] states that

"decompression deformed portions 46 and 48 comprise only the crevices 50 and 52 and the flat-surface parts 54 and 56."

Thus, it appears that elements 50 and 52 are crevices, or depressions, and element 54 is merely a flat wall portion. Thus, alleged part 54 appears to be similar to Applicants' flat wall faces 5b and cannot be considered a convex part on a wall face as claimed.

Moreover, Kobayashi fails to appreciate the problems with resin accumulation or whitening which can occur in convex portions when blow-molding slender bottle type containers (see Applicants' paragraphs [0004] to [0009] and [0027]), particularly when used with small draw ratios (2.8 or less). This affects the appearance and heat resistance of the bottles and is thus undesirable. However, the claimed structures recited in independent claim 1 can restrict the occurrence of such resin accumulations, whitening and the like (paragraph [0009]) by reducing obstructions against vectors directed from the top towards the bottom in a stretching direction during blow molding.

Accordingly, independent claim 1 and claims dependent therefrom would not have been obvious from the teachings of Kobayashi. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 7, 9, 11, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kobayashi in view of Japanese Patent Publication No. JP11-180428 to Tomizawa. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action alleges that Tomizawa teaches a bulged part. However, no specific element is referred to in the Office Action. Tomizawa also fails to overcome the deficiencies of Kobayashi with respect to independent claim 1. Therefore, claim 7 is allowable for its dependence on allowable base claim 1 and for the additional features recited therein.

Dependent claims 11 and 15 are canceled. Therefore, the rejection of these claims is moot.

Independent claim 9 is revised for clarity and recites, *inter alia*, a container body part having a body part, a container bottom part, and at least one pressure reduction absorbing panel. Moreover, claim 9 recites that each pressure reduction absorbing panel has a border line "formed at the boundary between a top side of the at least one pressure reduction absorbing panel and the body part bulged toward the container bottom part so that a width of the bulge is larger at the upper side than at the lower side of the boundary to restrict resin accumulation." This is supported, for example, by Applicants' FIGS. 6-7 and paragraphs [0014] and [0033] - [0035] where lower pressure reduction absorbing panel 5 is provided with sidewalls 5a that form a border line between wall faces 5b and the container body as shown. Moreover, an upper side of the panel has a bulge in the border line that bulges toward the container bottom part and is larger at the top than at the bottom. This structure is taught on paragraph [0034] to "effectively restrict occurrence of resin accumulation."

Kobayashi fails to teach or suggest such a structure and fails to appreciate the problem overcome by the recited structure. Similarly, Tomizawa fails to teach or suggest such a structure and fails to appreciate the problem overcome by the recited structure. In particular, none of the upper borders of the panels have a bulged structure as claimed. Accordingly, independent claim 9 distinguishes over Kobayashi and Tomizawa.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 2 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kobayashi in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,325,031 to Singier. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 12 is canceled. Therefore, the rejection of this claim is moot.

The Office Action relies on elements 55 and 56 of Singier as forming stepped portions. However, Singier teaches use of concentric rings 55 and 56 as a deformation structure to allow collapse of the panel. Singier does not teach a convex portion having a

width as recited in independent claim 1 or a stepped structure on the wall face provided along a wall face as recited in claim 2. Therefore, claim 2 is allowable for its dependence on allowable base claim 1 and for the additional features recited therein. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 3, 4, 6, 13, 14, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kobayashi in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,325,031 to Singier, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,064,081 to Hayashi. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Dependent claims 13, 14, and 16 are canceled. Therefore, the rejection of these claims is moot.

Hayashi fails overcome the deficiencies of Kobayashi and Singier with respect to independent claim 1. Moreover, the alleged structure in Hayashi, such as V-shaped vertexes 6 (FIGS. 2-3), are taught to be "recessed from the outer surface of the panel toward the interior of the container" (col. 4, lines 13-22 and evident from FIG. 3). Therefore, this structure is not a convex portion as claimed.

Accordingly, claims 3, 4, and 6 are allowable for their dependence on allowable base claim 1 and for the additional features recited therein. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kobayashi in view of Tomizawa, further in view of Japanese Patent Publication No. JP10-249922 to Umeyama. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, when a slender bottle is formed with convex portions and has a draw of 2.8 or less, problems can occur during blow molding, such as resin accumulations and whitening.

Umeyama is not even directed to a bottle type container having a pressure reduction absorbing panel or convex portions on a wall face thereof. Therefore, Umeyama fails to

appreciate problem during such formation, particularly for a bottle having a drawing ratio of 2.8 or less.

Accordingly, dependent claims 8 and 10 are allowable for their dependence on allowable base claims 1 and 9, respectively, as well as for the additional features recited therein. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

**III. New Claims 17-21 Define Patentable Subject Matter**

New independent claim 17 is directed to the combination of independent claims 1 and 9. This is supported, for example, by Figs. 1a and 4 and paragraph [0015]. None of the cited references teach or suggest this combination of features. Accordingly, claim 17 and claims 18-19 dependent therefrom distinguish over the cited art and are allowable.

New dependent claims 20 and 21 depend from claims 8 and 10, respectively, and further recite that the bottle type containers have no resin accumulation or whitening at the at least one pressure reduction absorbing panel (claim 20) or at the border line (claim 21). This is supported, for example, paragraphs [0015], [0027], [0028], and [0034] - [0036]. Thus, even though convex portions are provided and the drawing ratio is small, a good appearance can be provided. None of the cited references teach or suggest this combination of features. Accordingly, claims 20-21 are allowable for their dependence on allowable base claims as well as for the additional features recited therein.

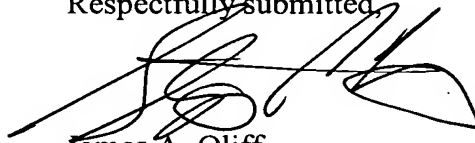
**IV. Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.



Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff

Registration No. 27,075

Stephen P. Catlin

Registration No. 36,101

JAO:SPC/ccs

Attachment:

Replacement Drawings (5 sheets)

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**OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC**

**P.O. Box 320850**

**Alexandria, Virginia 22320-4850**

**Telephone: (703) 836-6400**

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